



Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report



Albury Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Church End, Albury, Ware SG11 2JQ

Diocese of St Albans

LA: Hertfordshire
SIAS Inspection: 28 September 2009
Previous S48 Inspection: 24 September 2007
URN: 117419
Headteacher: Mrs Anne Atherton
SIAS Inspector Name: Mr David Underwood
SIAS Inspector No: 96

School Context

Albury V.A. Primary is a smaller than average school with currently 38 pupils on roll. It draws children mainly from the village of Albury and the surrounding area although some pupils travel from further afield. The school caters for a mixed social, cultural and academic intake. The majority of pupils are white with a very small proportion from ethnic minorities. There has been significant building work since the last inspection including the addition of a new hall and kitchen, detached from the main building.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Albury C of E Voluntary Aided Primary School as a Church of England school are good.

Albury is a good church school, with a clear vision underpinned by Christian values. Relationships are outstanding throughout the school and make a positive impact on all pupils who feel supported and encouraged in their learning and personal growth. Good links with the local church and community enhance the effectiveness of the school.

Established strengths

- Christian values underpin the outstanding relationships that exist throughout the school and have an impact on all learners.
- Christian values consistently inform, support and encourage the development of all learners.
- School leaders and Governors have a clear vision of how Christian values are at the heart of the life of the school.

Focus for development

- Develop more focused strategies for the marking and evaluation of pupils' work in Religious Education.
- Develop greater involvement of pupils in Collective Worship.
- Look for further opportunities to increase pupils' awareness of social ethnic and religious diversity in society.

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners.

The school staff, Governors and many parents readily acknowledge that Christian values are at the very heart of all that Albury School does. They underpin the outstanding relationships that exist throughout the school and have an impact on all learners. Every child is seen as special, as a child of God. Pupils are encouraged, supported and developed according to their particular needs and ability. Pupils develop a quiet self confidence and independence which enables them to achieve across the curriculum and make appropriate progress. They also develop their social skills, moral attitudes and cultural awareness. The first steps have been taken to establish links with an urban multicultural school to increase pupils' cultural and social understanding. Recent building work has enhanced the learning environment and the new hall, in spite of poor acoustics, has created a setting conducive to worship which makes a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual development.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Collective worship is central to the life of the school and the impact it has on pupils carries over into other areas of the curriculum. The new hall makes a significant contribution to the atmosphere with its floor to ceiling window framing a view of the church. Pupils are consistently engaged and attentive during worship, although acoustics are poor, and they speak with interest of being included and given a sense of purpose. This impacts on the charities the pupils choose to support and their involvement with the local community. There is a sense of calm and quiet reflection and the pupils speak of the value they place on prayer. Currently pupils take an active part in worship but this is being developed even further. Learners experience and are familiar with, a range of Anglican traditions and practice through the close involvement of the parish priest and the frequent use of the adjacent parish church. Pupils now make a positive evaluation of acts of worship and this good practice is being extended and improved.

The effectiveness of the religious education is satisfactory.

Learners enjoy RE and understand the importance of the subject. The main focus is on Christianity although other faiths are also explored. They talk openly about their beliefs and show respect for the views of others. This is enhanced through regular visits to the parish church and further afield to Hindu and Sikh centres of worship. A range of learning strategies and resources are in place, which include a good use of the local church and the use of IT resources, these meet the needs of the mixed age and ability of learners. Religious Education complements the work of the SEAL project and enables pupils to reflect on spiritual and moral issues. Religious Education is carefully planned and learning is satisfactory with some strategies for the marking and evaluation of pupils' work in place, these are currently being developed further.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good.

The Headteacher, staff and Governors, through their shared vision, ensure that Christian distinctiveness and values permeate all aspects of the school's life. Learners and adults alike value the impact Christian values have on the attitudes and behaviour throughout the school. Pupils speak readily of the way their problems and concerns are addressed and feel confident that they are safe and well cared for. Careful consideration is given to the appointment of new staff to ensure that the Christian ethos of the school is preserved and continues to develop. Governors understand the importance of developing strategies to ensure these core values continue to be developed into the future. Strong mutual support exists between the school and the local church. The school has good links with parents and the local community which impact on pupils, strengthening their confidence and giving them a greater understanding of the local community.